

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11208

FOLNG SENT NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA AND MADRAS FM BOMBAY
DTD 19 AUG.

QUOTE: BOMBAY 2092

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT IN

SUBJ: GORAY ADDRESSES BOMBAY'S FIRST OPPOSITION

POLITICAL PARTY MEETING SINCE EMERGENCY

REF BOMBAY 2080

1. CONGEN POL ASSISTANT KULKARNI ATTENDED SOCIALIST PARTY PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN HALL NEAR CHURCHGATE STATION LAST EVE 18TH (PARA 3 REFTL) WHICH ADDRESSED BY SOCIALIST MP, GORAY. HALL FILLED TO OVERFLOWING WITH PEOPLE STANDING INSIDE AS WELL CLUSTERED OUTSIDE DOOR. KULKARNI ESTIMATES ATTENDANCE AT ABOUT 3,000. SENIOR SOCIALIST AND JANA SANGH LEADERS WERE IN AUDIENCE. GORAY'S SPEECH PUNCTUATED THROUGHOUT BY FREQUENT OUTBURSTS BY AUDIENCE SHOUTING SLOGANS "DOWN WITH MRS GANDHI", "VICTORY TO JP MOVEMENT", "FREE JP", ETC. THERE WERE LARGE CONTINGENTS OF UNIFORMED POLICE OUTSIDE HALL WITH THOSE PRESENT INSIDE IN PLAINCLOTHES. THERE WERE NO ARRESTS.

2. GORAY HIGHLY CRITICAL OF MRS GANDHI. MAIN THEME OF SPEECH WAS LET THERE BE A DIALOGUE BETWEEN JP AND INDIRA.

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HE CALLED RAM AND Y.B. CHAVAN "COWARDS". HE ASKED WHAT WAS

WRONG IN JP CALLING ON MILITARY AND POLICE TO DISOBEY ILLEGAL ORDERS AND ADDED THAT JP HAD NOT CALLED ON THEM TO DISOBEY ORDERS DURING THE WAR. HE SAID MAHATMA GANDHI HAD BEEN TOLERANT, WHY WAS MRS GANDHI INTOLERANT? IF JP HAD DONE SOMETHING WRONG, WHY NOT BRING HIM BEFORE THE COURT AND GRING CHARGES AGAINST HIM? WHY ARE THE PARLIAMENTARY SPEECHES NOT PUBLISHED? AND SO ON. GORAY SAID OPPOSITION WAS FOR MRS GANDHI'D ECONOMIC PROGRAM AND WANT IT TO BE EVEN MORE RADICAL. THE OPPOSITION TO HER ECONOMIC PROGRAM IS FROM WITHIN THE RULING CONGRESS, HE SAID, NOT FROM OUTSIDE. HE REFUTED THE CHARGES MADE AGAINST GEORGE FERNANDES ON BASIS POINTS LATTER HAD MADE IN HIS LETTERS. GORAY SAID INDIA WILL FACE A NEW DANGER IN AFTERMATH BANGLADESH CRISIS. SAID THERE WAS NOW THE POSSIBILITY OF CHINA, TAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH COMING TOGETHER AND THAT INDIA'S EASTERN BORDER WAS NO LONGER SAFE. ADDED THAT SOVIET UNION AND US WILL POSSIBLY TAKE INTEREST IN CHANGED SITUATION AS WELL. THERE IS ALL THE MORE NEED, GORAY STRESSED, FOR A DIALOGUE BETWEEN JP AND INDIRA IN VIEW OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS. HE SAID THAT IF MRS GANDHI CLOSES THE NORMAL DEMOCRATIC CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION, "VIOLENCE IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE WHICH WE DO NOT WANT". AT THE END OF HIS SPEECH GORAY CALLED FOR PEOPLE TO RISE - "DON'T BE A COWARD" - AND COME OUT OPENLY AND TO ESTABLISH THEIR RIGHTS. IN COURSE SPEECH, GORAY PRAISED AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AND CITED ROLE OF FREE PRESS IN WATERGATE.

3. BEFORE SPEECH, GORAY TALKED TO TALWALKAR, EDITOR MAHARASHTRA TIMES. ACCORDING TALWALKAR, HE SUGGESTED TO GORAY WHY NOT ASK SHIEKH ABDULLAH TO INTERVENE AND ACT AS MEDIUM BETWEEN JP AND MRS GANDHI? GORAY ALSO TOLD TALWALKER THAT THERE IS NO ONE LEFT IN RULING CONGRESS WHO CAN TALK OPENLY TO MRS GANDHI INCLUDING RAM, Y.B. CHAVAN, AND DIXIT.

4. MAHARASHTRA TIMES FRONTPAGED GORAY'S ADDRESS THIS

MORNING AND ACCORDING TO KULKARNI, GIVES AN ALMOST UNCENSORED VERSION OF IT LESS REFERENCES TO RAM AND CHAVAN AS "COWARDS" ETC. ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS MAKES NO REFERENCE TO IT.

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5. WE ARE TOLD THAT GORAY WAS SURPRISED BY SIZE OF TURNOUT AND HEARTENED BY IT. OPPOSITION SOURCES ARE NOW THINKING OF FURTHER MEETINGS OF THIS KIND. DEPUTY PARLIAMENTARY LEADER OF JANA SANGH, J.JOSHI, MP, IS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS A SIMILAR TYPE MEETING IN POONA ON AUG 25. (EARLIER REPORT WE HAD RECEIVED OF JOSHI'S ARREST WAS INCORRECT.)

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UNQUOTE. SAXBE

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